

Message Text

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TAGS: MPOL MASS NATO TU

SUBJ: MARCH 19 PRIVATE MEETING OF THE DPC ON THE CUT-OFF OF US
MILITARY AID TO TURKEY

REF: A. USNATO 1422; B. USNATO 1294; C. STATE 49057;
D. STATE 44048; E. USNATO 1495

SUMMARY: AT A PRIVATE MEETING OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE,
SYG LUNS LED A DISCUSSION ON THE EFFECTS OF THE CUT-OFF OF US
MILITARY AID TO TURKEY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME SORT OF ACTION
BY THE OTHER ALLIES TO ASSIST TURKEY. ALL OF THE ALLIES, IN-
CLUDING TURKEY, TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE US AID CUT-OFF WAS
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A POLITICAL MATTER AND THE MAIN ROLE OF THE ALLIES SHOULD BE

TO ASSIST THE US ADMINISTRATION IN ITS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE CONGRESS TO RESUME AID. CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ARGUED THAT SUBMISSION OF MILITARY SPARE PARTS REQUIREMENTS BY TURKEY WOULD HAVE LITTLE MEANING, EXCEPT IN POLITICAL TERMS, SINCE NEARLY ALL TURKISH MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS OF US ORIGIN, AND SPARE PARTS COULD NOT BE SHIPPED FROM THE US TO TURKEY, EVEN IF PAID FOR BY ANOTHER ALLY. THE DPC WILL HOLD ANOTHER PRIVATE MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT IN ABOUT A WEEK. REQUEST WASHINGTON ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT MILITARY SPARE PARTS THAT EUROPEAN ALLIES MIGHT SUPPLY TO TURKEY. END SUMMARY.

1. SYG LUNS BEGAN THE MEETING BY REFERRING TO THE US SUGGESTION THAT THE DPC DISCUSS AID TO TURKEY AND TO THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ENTITLED "PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE EFFECT ON NATO'S MILITARY POSTURE OF THE US BAN ON MUTUAL AID TO TURKEY" (REF E). HILL-NORTON (CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE) SAID THAT HIS MEMORANDUM WAS A PERSONAL MEMORANDUM FROM HIM TO THE SYG AND HAD NOT BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND HE HAD HOPED PERMREPS WOULD HOLD IT CLOSE. ALL ADDRESSEES TREAT USNATO 1495 IN THAT LIGHT. HE THEN BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED THE STATUS OF AID FOR TURKEY FROM COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE US:

FRG - DM 100 M, NOT YET RELEASED;

CANADA - \$1.4 M, STOPPED IN MARCH 1973;

ITALY - \$2.5 M, OVER A 3-YEAR PERIOD.

HILL-NORTON ALSO SAID THAT PARA. 13 OF HIS MEMORANDUM (WHICH ASSERTS THAT THE US CUT-OFF OF SUPPLIES FOR TURKEY COULD ERODE THE CONFIDENCE OF OTHER NATO NATIONS IN THEIR OWN SOURCES OF SUPPLY) WAS TRUE BUT PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN OMITTED. HE ATTRIBUTED THAT PARAGRAPH TO AN EXCESS OF ZEAL ON THE PART OF THE WRITER.

2. ERALP (TURKEY) THANKED HILL-NORTON FOR HIS MEMORANDUM AND EXPRESSED A HOPE FOR A FULLER REPORT SOON. HE SAID THAT THE CUT-OFF OF US AID TO TURKEY HAS BOTH MILITARY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS AND THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE TAKEN UP BY THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

3. KRAPF (FRG) SAID THAT THE FRG SECURITY COUNCIL HAD DECIDED TO RESUME AID TO TURKEY BUT THAT "BOOKKEEPING"

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PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE FRG TREASURY AND DEFENSE MINISTRY HAVE PREVENTED A RESUMPTION OF AID SO FAR. HILL-NORTON POINTED OUT THAT GERMAN AID, EVEN WHEN RESUMED, WOULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM SINCE IT WAS CONFINED LARGELY TO TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.

4. HARTOGH (NETH) ASKED WHAT THE US CUT-OFF MEANT. WAS IT MERELY A CUT-OFF IN US AID, OR WAS IT AN EMBARGO ON ALL SHIPMENTS OF MILITARY GOODS FROM THE US EVEN WHEN PAID FOR BY TURKEY.

BRUCE (US) REPLIED THAT THE CUT-OFF INCLUDED BOTH A HALT IN AID AND A BAN ON SHIPMENTS OF ALL MATERIALS ON THE US MUNITIONS LIST, ALTHOUGH IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KNOW ABOUT A SPECIFIC ITEM WITHOUT RESEARCHING THE REGULATIONS.

5. DE STAERCKE (BELG) STATED THAT THE SUBJECT OF AID TO TURKEY REQUIRED VERY SPECIAL POLITICAL WORK UNDER THE SYG WATCHING BRIEF, WAS RIGHTLY WITHHELD FROM MILITARY COMMITTEE CHANNELS, AND SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE REFERRED TO THE DRC. HE SAID THAT HILL-NORTON'S MEMORANDUM WAS CLEAR ENOUGH TO WARN ON THE DANGERS OF THE AID CUT-OFF, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED NOW WAS A SYG LETTER TO THE US AND TURKEY DEALING WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CUT-OFF AND THE NEED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. LUNS CONCURRED WITH DE STAERCKE THAT THE ALLIANCE WAS FACED WITH A POLITICAL PROBLEM AND THAT LISTS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT HELP, BUT THE US GOVERNMENT AND TURKEY WERE ALREADY AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND WOULD NOT LEARN MUCH FROM A LETTER. ERALP SAID THAT INDICATIONS OF ALLIANCE VIEWS ON THE MATTER WOULD HELP THE US GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORT TO RESUME AID. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF PREPARE A STUDY DEALING WITH THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES THAT COULD OCCUR IF THE CUT-OFF CONTINUED, INCLUDING SUCH EFFECTS AS RAISING OF THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD OF THE ALLIANCE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN IN FACE OF THE UNKNOWN EFFECTS OF OPENING THE SUEZ CANAL AND INFLAMMABLE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND EXPLORATION OF THE CUT-OFF BY THOSE WHO WOULD HURT US-TURKISH RELATIONS AND JEOPARDIZE US BASES IN TURKEY.

6. LUNS SAID THAT ALL REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING SHOULD INFORM THEIR GOVERNMENTS OF THESE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS TO INCREASE THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM, SINCE THEY MIGHT EVENTUALLY HAVE TO LOOK FOR ALTERNATE SOURCES

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OF AID FOR TURKEY. HE SAID THAT HE MIGHT ASK ASYG KASTL FOR A POLITICAL ASSESSMENT. KRAPF SAID THAT ALL ALLIES FAVOR RESUMPTION OF AID TO TURKEY AND THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS MEETING WITH HIS DEFENSE MINISTER THIS AFTERNOON AND WOULD TRY TO INSURE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES HOLDING UP AID FROM THE FRG.

7. BRUCE SAID THAT LUNS' PERSONAL APPROACH TO CONGRESSMEN DURING HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL, BUT THAT AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM LUNS TO THE US GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE NON-PRODUCTIVE AT THIS TIME DUE TO SENSITIVITIES IN CONGRESS. THE US HAS A NEW CONGRESS AND ON ONE IS SURE WHAT CONGRESS WILL DO OR HOW IT MIGHT REACT TO AN OFFICIAL INTERVENTION BY THE SYG. THE US ADMINISTRATION HAD AND WAS DOING EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO HAVE CONGRESS LIFT THE BAN ON TURKISH SHIPMENTS. BRUCE SUGGESTED THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD UNDERTAKE BILATERAL

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TURKS TO ARRANGE FOR SUPPLY OF CRITICAL MILITARY SPARE PARTS AND THAT THE TURKS SHOULD PROVIDE A SHOPPING LIST OF THEIR NEEDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE VERY UNFORTUNATE IF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT REACTED TO THE US CUT-OFF BY CLOSING US INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY SINCE THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE GRAVE INDEED. ERALP REPLIED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ANXIOUS TO TAKE PRECIPITOUS ACTION, WAS NOT TAKING SUCH ACTION AND WOULD CONSULT BEFORE DOING SO. HOWEVER, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM PUBLIC OPINION AND THE TIME WOULD COME WHEN SOMETHING WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE.

8. HILL-NORTON SAID THAT A TURKISH SHOPPING LIST OF MILITARY SPARE PARTS MIGHT HAVE A POLITICAL EFFECT BUT NOT A MILITARY EFFECT SINCE NEARLY ALL TURKISH MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS OF US ORIGIN. LUNS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WERE SOME ITEMS THE EUROPEAN ALLIES COULD PROVIDE. HE THEN SUMMED UP THE MEETING BY SAYING THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE DPC DEPLORE THE US BAN ON MILITARY AID TO TURKEY, RECOGNIZE THE ILL EFFECTS OF THE BAN, AND WILL ASK FOR THE REACTION OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS. THE DPC PERMREPS WILL HOLD ANOTHER PRIVATE MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT IN ABOUT A WEEK.

9. REQUEST WASHINGTON ANALYZE THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SALES SHIPMENTS THAT WERE ORIGINALLY PROGRAMMED FOR TURKEY AND DETERMINE WHICH CRITICAL ITEMS COULD BE SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER ALLIES,
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POSSIBLY THROUGH LICENSED PRODUCTION NOT REQUIRING US PERMISSION FOR SHIPMENT TO NATO ALLIES; PLEASE INCLUDE INFORMATION ON MAJOR SYSTEMS SUCH AS THE F-104. WE NEED THIS ANALYSIS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE WEEK OF 24 MARCH IN ORDER TO ERODE THE APPARENT ALLIED ATTITUDE THAT PRESSURE ON THE US CONGRESS IS THE ONLY USEFUL ACTION THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO ASSIST TURKEY IN MAINTAINING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE. BRUCE UNQTE INGERSOLL

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